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Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

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RE: HB 6797

Dear Public Health Committee,

My name is Dr. Robin Russell and I am a Naturopathic Doctor and I would like to share my story.

I relocated from the state of Washington back to my home state of Connecticut in 2012 to raise my children around family. With the difference in scope laws between Washington and Connecticut, I didn't mind losing full Prescriptive Authority upon relocation. No more 2 am pages in the middle of the night and I could actually go home at the end of the day and not have to think about work until the next day. This seemed like a win-win situation until shortly after I started working in CT.

I began working in Avon when I first returned, and it only took me a couple of weeks to realize that there was such a huge demand for Naturopathic Primary Care here in CT. The residents of Connecticut should have the ability to choose who to receive their comprehensive care with as they do in other Prescriptive Authority states such as VT, NH, ME, DC, AZ, CA, HI, ID, KS, MN, MT, OR, UT, WA, etc. I had the privilege of raising both of my children (who are now 6 and 10 yrs. old) under the care of a Naturopathic Doctor from birth while I lived in Washington. While working in WA, I worked alongside 5 other Naturopathic Doctor's all of us specializing in Primary Care Pediatrics and we all had full practices. The demand for Naturopathic Primary Care is here too and we need to address it.

I established Primary Care with a Naturopathic Doctor for my 2 children because I wanted the best of both worlds. I wanted to use natural medicines for common benign conditions and prescriptions for situations that called for higher level intervention. I wanted to spend more than 12 minutes with my child's doctor during a Wellness visit. I wanted my child to see the same doctor every time we went in for either an acute or Wellness visit. I wanted to be able to page my child's doctor and talk to them instead of a nurse's hotline. I wanted to give my children the best start to life possible with an emphasis on diet, nutrition and a wonderful relationship with their doctor. I was fortunate enough to have been able to provide my children with a Naturopathic medical upbringing. I was fortunate to also have provided that service to the several hundred patients I was Primary Care for while practicing in WA.

I ask you Public Health Committee Members from the bottom of my heart to pass HB 6797 with Prescriptive Authority so that we can begin offering Naturopathic Primary Care services to the residents of our state as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Warmest Regards,
Dr. Robin Russell